

RURAL DISTRICT

OF

MALMESBURY

1963





RURAL DISTRICT

OF

MALMESBURY

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDED

31st, DECEMBER, 1963

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(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

C.L. Broomhead, T.D., M.D., B. Ch., D.P.H.

Official address:

5, High Street,

Chippenham. Tel: Chippenham 2821

extn. 49.

also Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs of Calne, Chippenham and Malmesbury and the Rural District of Calne & Chippenham; Assistant County Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer, County of Wiltshire.

(b) CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPLCTOR AND SURVEYOR

R.S. Pierce Cert. S.I.B., Meat & Other Food Inspectors' Cert.

(c) DEPUTY SURVEYOR

D.G. Davis, Cert. S.J.B., Meat & Other Food Inspectors' Cert. (to 9th.September, 1963)

(d) ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

R.T. Baynham, Cert. S.I.B., Meat & Other Food Inspectors' Cert., Diploma of the Royal Society of Health for Smoke Inspectors.

(E) SECRETARY TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

S.G.V. Williamson, Cert. R.I.P.H.H.

The Public Health Committee of the Council deals with all matters relating to public health.

The Chairman & members,
Malmesbury Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman & members,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1963 in accordance with Regulation 15(5) of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Copies of the Report are required by the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, the Ministry of Housing & Local Government and H.M. Inspector of Factories; a copy is also sent to the County Medical Officer of Health.

The report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. R.S. Pierce, is incorporated and provides much detailed information on environmental public health.

I am grateful to Mr. Pierce and the staff of the Council for their co-operation and assistance during the year under review.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

C.L. BROOMHEAD,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)
Population
No. of inhabited houses at end of 1963 (according to the Rate Book)
Rateable Value at 31.12.63 £232,945
Estimated sum represented by the Penny Rate £1,035.

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate Illegitimate	104	97 5	201 12
Total	111	102	213

Members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area are included in the population figure shown under the heading "General Statistics". To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from England & Wales as a whole, the crude birth and death rates for the Rural District are to to multiplied by a "comparability factor" given by the Registrar General. The above statistics have been so corrected.

STILL BIRTHS

Three still births were notified during 1963. The rate per 1000 total live and still births is 13.8. The comparative rate for England & Wales is given by the Registrar General as 17.3

INFANT MORTALITY

A total of six infants, under the age of one year, died during 1963. The Infantile Mortality Rate per 1000 live births is 28.0. The comparative rate for England & Wales is given by the Registrar General as 20.9.

Four of the above children died during their first four weeks of life.

The following deaths occurred in the Rural District during 1963.

	Males	Femal	THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O
	59	51	
Crude death rate f			
Adjusted death rat	e for the	er 1000 of the Rural Distric	t11.5
Comparative rate f		er 1000 of the l & Wales	
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	pe	er 1000 of the	population.

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males	Females	Total
Malignant neoplasm, stomach Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus Malignant neoplasm, breast Malignant neoplasm, uterus	5 -	- 2 1	1 5 2 1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms Leukaemia, aleukaemia Diabetes Vascular lesions of nervous system Coronary disease, angina	5 1 9 9	6 1 12 8	11 1 1 21 17
Hypertension with heart disease Other heart disease Other circulatory disease Influenza Pneumonia	1 7 4 - 4	- 6 2 1 3	i 13 6 1 7 7
Bronchitis Other diseases of respiratory system Hyperplasia of prostate Other defined and ill-defined disease Motor vehicle accidents All other accidents Suicide	3 - 1 5 1 2	1 - 3 - 1	7 1 8 1 2 2
TOTAL	59	51	110

The number of deaths is slightly lower than during 1962 (113), primarily due to a slight decrease in the deaths due to coronary disease (1962 - 24).

Of the 110 deaths, 26 occurred at the age of 65 and over and 55 occurred at age 75 and over.

Causes of death were as usual, vascular lesions of the nervous system, cancer and coronary disease.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the cases of infectious disease notified during 1963, together with comparative figures for each year since 1959.

	10 a)59 b	poditio, made gar	60 b		61 b	19 a	62 b	l a	963 b
DISEASE										
Scarlet Fever Whooping Cough Diphtheria Measles Ac.Poliomyelitis	4 - - 66	4 - 66	2 12 - 1	2 12 - 1	2 2 - 117	2 2 - 117	11 - - 4		1 - 120	- 1 - 120
(Paralytic) Ac.Poliomyelitis	-		-	dinal	_	-	-	_		
(Non-Paralytic) Dysentery Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	1	28 -	9	9	6	5	3	1 15 -	9
Puerperal Pyrexia Smallpox		_	_	_	gund	_		description of the second	_	_
Para Typhoid Fever Typhoid Fever Erysipelas	-		-		-		-			
Pneumonia Food Poisoning.	· . —	_		, -	_	_	2	_	1 2	1
Meningococcal Meningitis. Salmonella Infection	-	_	_	_	man man	_		_	1 12	1 12
TOTAL:-	71	71	43	24	131	127	2	2 18	153	145

[&]quot;a" = numbers originally notified

Comment on the above.

The cases of Salmonella infection were associated with an outbreak of food poisoning which originated at a Central Schools Kitchen in Chippenham.

Following investigation of the single case of Meningocccal Mengititis, no secondary cases came to light and no positive evidence was found pointing to the source of infection.

Although one case of Poliomyelitis was notified, subsequent investigation established that the patient was suffering from Glandular fever.

[&]quot;b" = final numbers after correction.

New cases of Tuberculosis notified and confirmed by the Chest Physician during 1963 are as follows, together with comparative totals for previous years since 1949.

NEW CASES NOTIFIED DURING

YEAR	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	TOTAL
1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960 1961 1962 1963	336387542743536 ************************************	- 4 - 2 - 4 1 1 2 2 2 1	376581543865638

In addition to the new cases notified each year, a certain proportion of tuberculous persons either move into the district or move out. According to the Register of Tuberculous Persons, the following notified and confirmed cases of Tuberculosis were living in the rural district at the end of 1963.

	,	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary		35	17	52
Non-Pulmonary		7	4	11
TOTAL.		42	21	63

A total of sixty cases were on the Register at the end of 1962.

National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

In February, it was found necessary to move a man and a woman living at the same address, to hospital under the provisions of this Act

Every effort was made to rehabilitate this couple and the premises were thoroughly cleansed and redecorated before their eventual discharge from hospital. A detailed account of the Council's sewage disposal schemes, their progress and maintenance, will be found in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

The following report on sewage disposal at Lea Council houses was given to the Public Health Committee on the 16 October, 1963. The Council subsequently decided to include the village of Lea in the proposals for the main sewering of the north eastern area.

"Lea Council Houses - Sewage Disposal. Visited with Mr. Pierce on Wednesday 9 Oct 63.

There are twelve houses, construction began in 1936, although there are indoor water closets, there are no baths or hot water systems.

Numbers 1 to 5 inclusive drain to a rudimentary septic tank of approximately 300 gallons capacity, the overflow from this discharges to the adjacent ditch, thence across the road to surface water ditch running along the side of the road to Lea Village.

Numbers 6 to 12 inclusive drain to small individual septic tanks of approximately 200 to 300 gallons capacity; effluent from these tanks is pumped by tenants to ditch approximately 50 yards from rear of pr@perties.

There are no filter beds for treatment of tank effluent and the ditch therefore receives crude sewage; it is also stagnant and offensive with little or no flow.

It is estimated that approximately 1,200 gallons of sewage per day require treatment.

The present system of disposal is unsatisfactory; has always been so, and is dangerous to health.

The disposal of effluent to the disused borehole at the rear of No.5 cannot be considered a satisfactory solution.

There are two alternatives:

- 1. Installation of new sewage disposal system for the twelve properties, or if this is not economically or physically possible, then the
- 2. Sewage Disposal Scheme for Lea Village should be brought forward".

C.L. Broomhead,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Wiltshire County Council, as a Local Health Authority, is responsible for the formation of schemes for the immunisation of children against certain infections. I am indebted to Dr. C.D.L. Lycett, County Medical Officer of Health for the following information:-

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS.

Year of birth.		1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1954 -58	1949- 53•
Primary imms completed during 1963.	Diph. Wh/c. Tet.	35 32 35	85 85 85	12 9 12	2 1 2	1 1 1	18 - 18	
Reinf.injects. administered during 1963.	Diph. Wh/c Tet.		8 6 7	41 28 33	8 6 8	7† 7† 7†	49 6 29	4 - 4

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

		Mor	nths			Years			
Age Group.	0-3	3-6 6	5-9	9-12	1	2-4	5-14	15	
Vaccinations	2	2	3	1	11	VIIIA	5	6	
Re-vaccinations		-	tunp.	-	****	1	10	26	

COMPLETED POLIOMYELITIS IMMUNISATION DURING 1963.

Age Group	2nd inj.					injs +	4 oral after 3 l injs or se. 3 oral.
Children born in 1963		1	_	lÓ	_	-	_
Children born in 1962.	2	1	lovo	53	1	-	
Children born in 1961	_	1	,,,,,,	29	5 .	1	***
Children and young persons born 1943-1960	1	8	10	54	11	12	146
Young persons born 1933-1942	gental	-		7	1	-	2
Others	wana.	1	yana.	16	5	••••	1-
TOTALS	3	12	10	169	23	13	149

NOTE: - A further statistical table supplied by Dr. Lycett shows that 50.4% of children born in the Rural District during 1962 received primary immunisation against Diphtheria up to the 31st. December, 1963.

REPORT OF SURVEYOR AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1963.

OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

R.S. Pierce
D.G. Davis
Deputy Surveyor.

R.T. Baynham
Additional Public Health Inspector.

J.R. Atherton
A.W. Wilkins
J.H. Humphreys (Mrs.)

G.J. Poulton
Clerical Assistant.

G.J. Poulton
Clerical Assistant.

H. Titcomb
Clerical Assistant.

Clerical Assistant.

Clerical Assistant.

Mr. Davis resigned and left his appointment early in September, leaving the department seriously understaffed.

HOUSING.

Council Houses.

Work was commenced early in the year on the erection of 25 2 bedroomed bungalows, with site works, at Sherston. Steady progress was maintained and 9 were completed ready for occupation by the end of the year.

31 families were rehoused in existing Council houses through changes of tenancy during the year.

It was necessary to serve notices to quit on 3 tenants for serious arrears of rent.

No. of applicants for Council houses at present registered 180

The Council own:-

24 1 bedroomed bungalows.
51 2 " "
25 2 " houses.
415 3 " "
10 4 " "

Maintenance and repair of Council houses has been carried out almost entirely by direct labour, the repair of electrical installations being the only work regularly carried out by Contractors.

It is being found that major repairs such as replacement of grates, doors, windows etc. are becoming necessary to the prewar houses and the average cost of repairs per house is bound to increase for this reason as well as through rises in costs of labour and materials.

There were heavy abnormal costs in repair of frost damage due to the exceptionally hard winter.

The average cost of repair and maintenance during 1963 was approximately £15.0.0d. per house.

Schemes for the improvement of prewar Council houses by the installation of hot water systems, water closets, baths, basins etc., have proceeded.

During the year under review work has been completed in 16 houses at Green Lane, Sherston and tenders have been accepted for work in 16 houses and bungalows at Dauntsey Road, Great Somerford.

A scheme is in course of preparation for the 16 houses at Tuners Lane, Crudwell but it has been decided that the improvement of the houses at Lea Crescent, Wick Road, Oaksey, Sawyers Rise, Minety and St. Johns, Dauntsey must await the main sewerage schemes.

Up to the end of 1963, 94 houses have been improved.

54 garages are now owned by the Council, work having been completed on 12 at Brooklands, Brinkworth. Work was commenced on the erection of 22 more at Sherston.

No. of inspections of occupied Council houses	942
Private Enterprise Building.	
No. of houses completed during the year No. in course of erection at end of year	48 29
Administration of Building Byelaws.	
No. of plans submitted for approval No. of plans passed No. of inspections in connection therewith	121 121 625

Town and Country Planning Act, 1962.

The Council continued to exercise the powers delegated by the Wilts County Council with regard to development control.

No. of applications for permission to develop	158
No. approved without conditions	67
No. approved with conditions	50
No. of applications withdrawn	5
No. of applications refused	31
No. of applications not yet determined	5
No. of inspections in connection therewith	321

Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960.

Licences were issued for the stationing of 2 caravans on individual sites and 12 caravans on a third site bringing the number of caravans licensed to 77 on 26 sites. The sites generally were satisfactory.

73

Inspection of Dwellings.

No.	of inspections of dwellings for defects under Housing	
	or Public Health Acts	347
No.	of dwellings found to be unfit for human habitation	2
No.	found to be not in all respects fit	56
No.	of dwellings repaired by informal action	54
No.	of cases of statutory action	NIL
No.	of houses demolished	4
No.	of houses closed	2
No.	of undertakings accepted	2
No.	of overcrowded dwellings known at end of year	NIL

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959. Improvement Grants.

There has, for the second year, been a reduction in the number of applications for improvement grants the total number approved being 39 against 49 for 1962 and 64 for 1961.

The improvement of houses with the aid of grant is nevertheless making a valuable contribution to raising the standard of housing in the District.

203

Discretionary Grants.

No. of applications received during the No. of applications approved No. of applications withdrawn No. of schemes completed Average grant per dwelling	28 28 NIL 30 £359
Standard Grants	S
No. of applications for standard grant during the No. of grants approved during the year No. of amenities provided during the y	year 11 11
E H	Baths 8 Basins 9 Hot water supplies 11 Bater closets 8

Foodstores

WATER.

During the year the following samples from main supplies were taken for bacteriological examination:-

No. of inspections of grant aided premises

Source.	No. of Samples.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Chelworth main	14	11	3
North Wilts Water Board main	52	52	øa
Swindon Corporation main	12	12	-
Bristol Water Works main	12	12	-
Westonbirt main	12	12	~
	102		3
	102	99	<i>-</i>
No. of visits in connection	therewith		108

The unsatisfactory samples from Chelworth main were due to temporary breakdowns of the automatic chlorinator.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The installation of main water supplies throughout practically the whole of the District, and consequent increase in drainage, makes the need for main sewerage schemes greater than ever.

The Council's policy has been to encourage house building by private enterprise and the improvement of older property by the installation of water closets and baths, the only possible drainage outfalls in many cases at present being cesspits or septic tanks. In areas with pervious subsoil, effluent disposal by soakage is reasonably efficient but in that part of the District with a clay or water-logged subsoil the tendency is growing for ditches and water-courses to become polluted, with consequent complaints from residents in the vicinity.

The increasing use of detergents is making plant maintenance and effluent disposal even more difficult than in the past.

Until such time as sewage schemes can be provided, if houses are to be improved, the occupants must be prepared to accept a certain amount of inconvenience in drainage disposal.

The Hullavington and Sherston sewage disposal plants have been well maintained during the year and samples of effluent have been reported to be excellent.

Difficulty is being experienced in disposing of the sludge from the works. Farmers appear to be growing more and more reluctant to take the sludge, even free of charge, and it is anticipated that disposal will become more difficult in future.

Work was completed on the schemes for Great and Little Somerford and for that part of the parish of St. Paul Without surrounding the Borough of Malmesbury and most of the houses in the areas sewered have been connected.

Further schemes are being prepared with a view to continuity in progress but the speed with which proposals can be implemented will depend upon the amount of time which officers can devote to the work.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse is collected fortnightly, by direct labour, over the whole of the Rural District.

More householders are realizing the need to provide proper covered flyproof dustbins but unsuitable containers such as sacks, cardboard boxes and old baths etc., continue to be used in many instances.

The volume of refuse collected continues to increase and is deposited at 3 tips, Hullavington (owned by the Council), Sherston and Chelworth (by agreement with the owners).

No serious difficulty has been experienced at the tips.

The Hullavington tip is nearly full and it has not yet been possible to obtain a new site in this part of the District. Tipping continued in the disused gravel pit on Laynes Farm, Chelworth and the disused marl pit at Knockdown Road, Sherston.

A new tip is urgently required in the southern part of the District if long hauls of refuse are to be avoided and it is hoped that the Council's negotiations for the use of the disused railway cutting at Great Somerford will soon be successful.

A new 25 cubic yard S. & D. fully enclosed refuse lorry was put into service during the year and has resulted in a reduction in the number of trips to the tip and thus of mileage in spite of the increased amount of refuse collected.

Mileage covered by lorries

No. of inspections in connection with refuse collection and disposal

267

EMPLOYMENT OF WORKMEN.

The Council now employ the following workmen:-

Housing maintenance and repair

2 Painters
2 Tradesmen
2 labourers
Refuse collection
2 loader/drivers and 1 loader
part time
Sewage disposal
4 and 1 part time.

Workmen engaged on sewage disposal and refuse collection are supplied with protective clothing for use in fine and wet weather and washing facilities have been provided on all of the Council's vehicles.

The following vehicles are now being operated:-

- 1 25 cubic yard S. & D. refuse collection lorry
- 1 12 cubic yard Dennis refuse collection lorry
- 2 Standard Atlas Vans sewage disposal
- 3 " housing repairs and maintenance.

RODENT CONTROL.

Refuse tips and sewers have been treated for destruction of rats as required.

Private premises are treated without charge, on request.

No.	of properties	inspected for infestations	129
No.	of properties	found to be infested and treated	97
No.	of visits in	connection therewith	162

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

120 visits were made and the necessary action taken following reported cases of infectious disease.

NUISANCES.

Regular inspections have been made over the District to detect and deal with nuisances. It has not been necessary to recommend the Council to take statutory action in any case, all nuisances having been dealt with informally.

No. of inspections

282

FOOD INSPECTION.

Meat.

The 3 butchers shops in the District are clean and in good condition. The carcases of all animals slaughtered were examined.

There is one licensed slaughterhouse and three licensed slaughtermen in the District.

All animals slaughtered in the District for human consumption were inspected and the table below shows the small percentage of carcases found to be in any way diseased.

The case of T.B. is the first found for several years and only a bullock's head was affected.

The arrangements and management of the slaughterhouse are satisfactory.

A total of 101 lbs. of meat and offal were found to be unfit for human consumption and condemned.

No. of visits to slaughterhouse

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed	58	nil	nil	42	36	nil
Number inspected	58	nil	nil	42	36	nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.						
Whole carcases condemned	nil	nil	nil	1	nil	nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	nil	nil	nil	1	nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	6.89	nil	nil	2.38	2.78	nil
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcases condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1 ·	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.72	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Cysticercosis. Carcases of which some part or organ						
was condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Generalised and totally condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil

Milk.

The Wilts County Council delegated to the Council certain powers and duties under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960.

90 samples of milk were taken during the year; 4 samples taken for keeping quality were unsatisfactory and biological tests on 2 samples of raw milk taken from a producer retailer were Brucellosis positive. The necessary action was taken including churn samples. 4 sets of bottle rinses were satisfactory.

No.	of registered distributors							
No.	of licensed dealers in Pasteurised milk	3						
No.	of licensed dealers in Tuberculin Tested milk	3						
No.	of licensed dealers in Sterilised milk	1						
No.	of inspections of premises	24						

The sample target figure set by the County Council has been exceeded.

Bakehouses.

The three bakehouses are satisfactory.

Ice-Cream.

No ice-cream is manufactured in the District, and all sold is pre-packed by the Makers.

No.	of	premises registere	l and	selling	ice-cream	42
No.	of	inspections				30

Public Houses.

Progress continues to be made in the provision of adequate sanitary conveniences and cleansing facilities in public houses, and most are now satisfactory.

No. of inspections

24

Food Hygiene Regulations.

The mobile vehicles operating in the District are generally satisfactory. All premises in the District used for the sale of food are generally in good condition and well maintained.

Schedule of Food Premises in the District.

	Number.	Number of Inspections.
Butchers Grocers (including General Stores)	3 38	3 26
Bakers	3	4
Public Houses Greengrocers	34 1	24 1
Restaurants and Canteens	5	6
	84	64
		

THE DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957.

The number of premises registered has now been reduced to two. Both were satisfactory.

No. of visits made

3

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT.

All premises licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit and carbide of calcium are satisfactory.

No.	of	premises	licensed	for	storage	of	petroleu	um spirit	64
No.	of	premises	licensed	for	storage	of	calcium	carbide	1
No.	of	inspection	ons						76

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

PART I of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

	No. on Register.	Inspns.	No. of Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by L.A.'s	nil	nil	nil	nil
Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the L.A.	22	12	nil	nil
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers' premises)	nil	nil	nil	nil
	22	12	nil	nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

No action was taken under this heading during the year under review.

3. Part VIII of the Act (Outwork) - Sections 133 and 134.

There are no outworkers living in the Rural District.



